GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:169
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
DECLARATION OF TRAINS AS SUPERFAST
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has issued any instructions to all Zonal Railways regarding declaring certain trains as superfast trains which involve levy of supplementary charges on passenger ticket;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railway Board is aware that the Eastern Railway has not declared some trains originating from Howrah station which have more than prescribed speed limit for superfast as superfast trains;

(d) if so, the reasons for not declaring these trains as superfast alongwith the revenue loss occurring to the exchequer as a result thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Railway Board in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 169 BY SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04-08-2005 REGARDING DECLARATION OF TRAINS AS SUPERFAST

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Railway Board issued instructions in 1993 for declaring trains as superfast based on average speed criteria of minimum 55 kilometre per hour (kmph) on broad gauge and 45 kmph on metre gauge, for the purpose of levy of supplementary charges. In 1998, Ministry of Railways empowered the zonal railways to declare the train as superfast if it fulfilled the speed criteria.

(c) to (e): Four trains, Viz., 3015/3016 Howrah-Bolpur Shantiniketan Express, 3029/3030 Howrah-Dhanbad Coal Field Express, 3317/3318 Howrah-Dhanbad Black Diamond Express and 3035/3036 Howrah-Asansol Agnibina Express, not declared by Eastern Railway as superfast, are under consideration for review in regard to superfast criteria. Since these trains have not been declared as superfast, the question of levy of surcharge and the resultant revenue loss does not arise. Due to involvement of issues relating to travel of common people, the matter of declaring these trains as superfast could not progress ahead. Ministry of Railways is now reviewing the whole issue including the present speed criteria.